Nixon, Five Aides Seen on Six Tapes

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The six new tapes the House Judiciary Committee has requested from the White House reportedly contain talks between President Nixon and five former top aides accused in the Watergate scandal.

A committee member said the conversations took place "within a few days, less than a week, either side of" March 21, 1973. This was the date on which Mr. Nixon said he was first told of attempts to cover up the break-in of Democratic headquarters at the Watergate complex. It was on this occasion, he said, that he stated that while hush money for the burglars could be raised, it would be wrong.

The congressman said the taped conversations the committee wants for its impeachment inquiry took place between the President and the following:

H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, former White House chief of staff; John D. Ehrlichman, former chief domestic adviser John N. Mitchell, former Attorney General and director of the President's 1972 re-election campaign; Charles W. Colson, former White House special counsel; and John W. Dean III, former counsel to the President.

Haldeman, Ehrlichman, Mitchell and Colson were indicted by a grand jury here last week on charges of trying to cover up the Watergate scandal. Dean, who cooperated with the investigation, pleaded guilty last October to a charge of conspiracy to obstruct justice. His sentencing has been deferred.

These tapes were not furnished Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski, and were not included in the President's offer to give the House committee all materials he had given Jaworski. The committee refused to say yesterday whether any of these materials have been delivered.

One reason for requesting tapes of conversations before the critical March 21 date presumably would be to learn whether the President's conversations showed that he had knowledge of the Watergate cover-up before then.

A chronology of events in this period shows that during the few days after March 21, James McCord, one of those convicted of the break-in, wrote his famous letter to U.S. District Court Chief Judge John J. iSrica charging that perjury was committed at the Watergate trial and that higher-ups were involved.

The committee served notice at a Thursday meeting that it will issue a subpoena to compel production of the tapes if they are not turned over voluntarily.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) said yesterday that the White House should "make every bit of information available to the House committee. When it's an inquiry into impeachment, I think you have an overriding right on the part of the House committee."

Mansfield told reportes that the White House should stop standing on technicalities and "make the necessary date available . . . Otherwise you stand the strong possibility of having it drag out and drag out and drag out."